

# Alexandria Gazette

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## MEDICINAL.



## Alexandria Gazette.

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ginia matter.]

## WAR IN THE EAST.

Dear Admiral Prince Oukomsky wires from Port Arthur that the Bezstrashni, one of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyers sent out during the night to reconnoiter, became separated from the rest of the fleet, owing to the bad weather prevailing, was surrounded by Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers, and was sunk in the fight. Five men were saved. Forty-five officers and men perished.

Admiral Oukomsky adds: "I have taken command provisionally of the fleet since the disaster to the Petropavlovsk. During some maneuvering of the battleship squadron the Pobieda struck against a mine amidships on the starboard side. She was able to regain port by herself. No one on board of her was killed or wounded."

It is now announced that the battleship Petropavlovsk went down two and a half minutes after striking. The fleet remaining at Port Arthur is reduced to a strictly defensive basis.

The new commander of the Ozearych perished on the Petropavlovsk before he had assumed command of the battleship.

The official bulletin conveying the intelligence of the loss of another torpedo-boat destroyer and the accidental crippling of another battleship was almost as severe a blow as the loss of the Petropavlovsk, Wednesday, and plunged the whole city anew into grief.

The Novos Vremya reproduces a lecture delivered by Admiral Makarov in 1894 on the subject of the Victoria and Camperdown catastrophe, in which he pointed out the inherent weakness of battleships and their liability to turn turtle, even when their water-tight compartments are closed, because their armor and guns make them top-heavy.

Alarming reports prevail regarding Grand Duke Cyril's condition. It is said that he is in a high fever, aggravated by shock, which it is feared will bring about a crisis. The members of his family are greatly disturbed. It appears that the Grand Duke's neck and legs were burned.

The official version of the sinking of the battleship Petropavlovsk at Port Arthur has been published, and it clears up to a great extent the mysterious features of that vessel's destruction. This version is as follows:

Retiring before the advance of a superior Japanese fleet which was not fighting its progress, the Russian squadron approached the entrance to the harbor. It was shortly after 8 o'clock in the morning and most of the officers and members of the crew were at breakfast on the flagship. Vice Admiral Makarov was eating breakfast in his cabin and the wardroom was crowded with officers surrounding the tables. On the bridge Grand Duke Cyril, his friend, Lieutenant Von Kobe, Captain Jakovlev, commanding the vessel, and two other officers were on watch examining the narrow entrance preparatory to entering it. At about 8:30 o'clock there was a terrific explosion of the boilers, followed a few seconds later by a detonation from the well-stored magazines. Huge gaps were torn in the hull of the ship and the water rushed in. The center of gravity having gone, the ship rolled on her side and sank. All information tends to prove that the mine was responsible for the destruction of the Petropavlovsk. The scene below will never be described, as, so far as known, not a single person between decks succeeded in escaping. The hot steam which scalded the men on deck indicated what must have been the character of the death met by those in the engine room. The men on deck were thrown in all directions, those falling into the water swimming and grasping the wreckage to which some of them were able to cling. The remainder of the squadron immediately stopped and lowered small boats, and the torpedo boats steamed as quickly as possible to the rescue of the survivors. The escape of Grand Duke Cyril and Lieut. von Kobe was nothing short of miraculous. The force of the explosion sent Grand Duke Cyril flying across the bridge, and the base of his skull struck on an iron stanchion. Fortunately, he did not lose consciousness. Believing that the ship was about to sink, he clambered hastily down its side and boldly plunged into the water. He succeeded in reaching a piece of wreckage, to which he clung. The Grand Duke was in the water about 20 minutes before he was picked up by a torpedo boat. Captain Jakovlev was thrown against a stanchion with such force that he was killed. Vassili Verestchagin, the Russian painter, was Vice Admiral Makarov's guest on the Petropavlovsk. It is reported that he was lost with the ship. Nicholas T. Kravtchenko, the well-known Russian literary man, who was acting as correspondent for the Association Press at Port Arthur, it is believed went down with the Petropavlovsk.

A brief report from Rear Admiral Uriu of Wednesday's fighting off Port Arthur reached the Japanese Navy Department yesterday. It says Vice Admiral Togo's fleet attacked Port Arthur in the morning and succeeded in sinking a battleship of the Petropavlovsk class and one torpedo-boat destroyer. The Japanese sustained no losses. One Japanese was wounded. At daylight the Japanese torpedo boats made a demonstration before the port and at the same time laid mines across the outer entrance to the harbor. They then returned and joined the main squadron. The squadron then advanced and as it drew near the Russian ships were seen coming out. The battleship Petropavlovsk struck one of the mines laid by the Japanese torpedo boats and was destroyed.



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According to a dispatch from Tokio, Admiral Togo, while maneuvering his squadrons of cruisers opposite the entrance of the harbor for the purpose of attracting Makarov to venture out, dispatched torpedo boats forward for a cut-off distance on both flanks to cut off the Russians' retreat. It is suspected that the advance of the torpedo boats was not observed by Makarov's ships, which were intent on the engagement with Togo's squadron until so late that it was impossible that all the Russian fleet could regain the harbor. Makarov's reputation for courage is taken to warrant the opinion that he interposed his heavily armored flagship to protect the retreating vessels and thus saved the squadron at the cost of his own ship and life, as well as the lives of nearly all on board.

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